How to / Trackmania / General / Locators

Author : TStarGermany (Translations: Lord M'zn, Guiguidu60 , Tamonte , Torx)

Introduction

3 simple facts about "Locators"

→ A locator is a textfile that only contains a single line: The internet URL of a media file.
→ A locator is a placeholder = placed where your original media file would usually reside.
→ A locator has the file extension ".loc".

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN TM FOREVER
In Trackmania Forever the original media file must be placed in the folder **TOGETHER** with the locator file, otherwise the media files might not show up in the dialogues / lists.

What is it good for ?

The media files on your harddrive are not available to anyone on the internet, but the information from your locator will be transfered to other people (or be integrated into your selfmade driving track), so other peoples' Trackmania game will automatically start to download these media files to their computers as well.

Creating a Locator in General

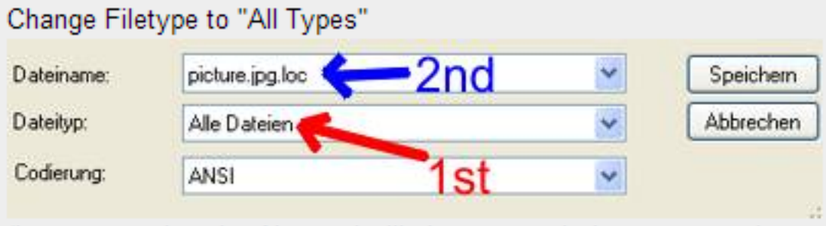
CLICK IMAGE TO ZOOM

Preparing Windows(Click picture to Zoom)
Before everything else, let's make sure your Windows is well configured, so we can actually see the files as they are...

In **any folder window**, go to **Tools>Folder Options>View**. Look for the option that says "Hide file extensions for known file types" and uncheck it. This will make the files extensions visible and editable.

1) You have uploaded a picture to your Webspace, the URL of the picture is now:
   http://www.yourdomain.com/picture.jpg
2) Open your program "Notepad"
3) Enter the URL as your text

4) Click on "File/ Save as..." menu
5) Change Filetype to "All Types"



(Important, otherwise Notepad will always attach the .txt extension automatically)

6) Enter "picture.jpg**.loc**" as filename, press the "Save" button.
7) Congratulations. You have created a locator :-)

Where do I put the locator file ?

Locators will be required when dealing with the following media files:
Custom cars, Custom track music, Custom Track graphics & sounds, Custom advertisement signs and Enviromental mods.
See the corresponding sections on details how to use the locators there.

Creating Locators for a free webhosting server URL

In this tutorial we will use `www.fileden.com` as our file hosting site as it supports all types of files. You may choose another, but be sure it supports **direct linking** (also called hotlinking).

Our example file will be a .jpg image called "Star" which is located at **C:\...\Documents & Settings\Trackmania\Mediatracker\Images** and is being used in the MediaTracker for a driving Track you made...

Here are the steps you should follow:

1) Create a free account on www.fileden.com
2) Upload your Star.jpg file to your account.
3) Inside your account, get the file's direct URL,
   (Rightclick on File > Properties > URL) it should look something like this:
   `http://www.fileden.com/files/2007/12/23/1658968/Star.jpg`
4) At the same location of the original file
   (in this case C:\...\Documents & Settings\Trackmania\Mediatracker\Images\ , create a text file (Rightclick>New>Text document) and paste the direct URL inside and save it.
5) Change that textfile's name to (original file's name).loc To our file it would be Star.jpg.loc
6) Finished.
   To see if the file gets downloaded move or rename the original file and load the track. Wait a bit and see if it worked.
7) Save the track after this to associate it with the .loc file.

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